

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01
NSC-05 SIG-03 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 A-01
/061 W

-----037572 012348Z /66

R 011246Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1054

DAKAR FOR AID

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GV, US
SUBJECT: PL-480 ABS AND U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN GUINEA

1. I WISH TO ADD MY STRONGEST SUPPORT FOR AID'S PL-480
FY 80 ABS WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED THIS MONTH.

2. USE OF PL-480 TITLES I, II, AND POTENTIALLY III FOR
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS ASSISTANCE IS THE MAJOR TOOL WE POSSESS
IN HELPING TO ATTAIN U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN GUINEA.
I HAVE BEEN STRESSING TO THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT THAT
ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH
HOW RECEPTIVE WASHINGTON IS TO ITS VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR
AID, INCLUDING FOOD AID, AS WELL AS FOR EXIM FINANCING,
AND U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT. THIS MESSAGE FORTUNATELY
IS SINKING IN. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MAJOR AMNESTIES
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (THE LAST, ON MAY 14, MAY HAVE
INCLUDED NEARLY ONE HUNDRED AND CERTAINLY NOT LESS THAN
60 PERSONS), GUINEA HAS RATIFIED PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANTS, AND THE INTERNAL REGIME HAS
RELAXED TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, INCLUDING A REMARKABLE
IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONSUMER GOODS SITUATION. I BELIEVE
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THAT THE GOG HAS DELIBERATELY DECIDED TO PUT DEVELOPMENT
FIRST, TO DOWNPLAY POLITICAL QUARRELS AND TENSIONS OF
THE PAST, AND TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE ABROAD TO ATTRACT
MORE AID AND INVESTMENT. PL-480 FOOD OFFERS THE PRIN-
CIPAL MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH THE U.S. CAN CONCRETELY DEMON-
STRATE ITS APPROVAL OF IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE
(OR, BY THE SAME TOKEN, DISAPPROVAL OF POOR PERFORMANCE).

3. PL-480 ALSO OFFERS CHIEF SUCCOR FOR THE POOREST SECTIONS OF GUINEA'S POPULATION. DESPITE TOP PRIORITY GIVEN TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY GOG, GUINEA CANNOT FEED ITSELF. PL-480 DELIVERIES SUPPORT MUCH OF GUINEA'S URBAN POPULATION FOR PART OF THE YEAR AND ADDITIONALLY GENERATE LOCAL CURRENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THIS YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOG HAS PLEDGED TO USE ALL LOCAL CURRENCY GENERATED UNDER THE CURRENT AGREEMENT TO ACCELERATE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NETWORK OF AGRONOMY FACULTIES WHICH IN TURN AIM AT EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND EDUCATION AND THEREBY ENABLING GUINEA'S SMALL LOCAL PRODUCERS TO INCREASE OUTPUT AND BETTER FEED THE COUNTRY.

4. I HAVE ALSO BEGUN ADIALOGUE WITH THE GOG ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS. PL-480 DELIVERIES OFFER USEFUL OPENING FOR SUCH DIALOGUE.

5. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT PL-480 SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED TO ENCOURAGE GREATER GUINEAN NON-ALIGNMENT VIS-A-VIS THE USSR, AS WAS SUCCESSFULLY DONE IN 1976-77. THE GOG HAS BEEN SENSITIZED TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS REGARDING HOSTILE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS AND SOVIET- SOUGHT NAVAL BASES IN GUINEA, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THESE POINTS WITH THE GOG, IN THE CONTEXT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TINUED FOOD AID.

6. IN CONCLUSION, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A VARIETY OF FACTORS HAVE PREVENTED THE U.S. FROM RESPONDING FULLY OR IN GOOD TIME TO SEVERAL IMPORTANT GUINEAN REQUESTS, PL-480 DELIVERIES ASSUME A GREATLY HEIGHTENED IMPORTANCE TO THIS MISSION IN ITS EFFORTS TO PURSUE OVERALL U.S. GOALS IN GUINEA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CONAKR01054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0263
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806109/aaaadpgn.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73a7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2166465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL-480 ABS AND U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN GUINEA
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73a7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014